

~~NORTH BRANCH LIBRARY~~

## Two veterans remain in Terre Haute



### Only Yesterday

By Frances E. Hughes

Only two Terre Haute men who saw service during the Spanish-American War are still living.

They are Elmer Muston, 2726 Schaal Avenue, who is 96 years old, and William T. Stiner, 2137 Hendrick Street, 95 years old.

Both men live alone but get along with the help of neighbors, and both are in fairly good health although they are deaf and cannot see to read. Muston and Stiner are both widowers. Muston's wife, Flossie, having died 16 years ago, and Stiner's wife, Ora, died last December.

Muston's three sons are dead and his daughter, Mrs. Mary Coyle, lives in Punta Gorda, Fla.

Stiner has a son, Merl L. Stiner, who lives in Milford, Ind., and a daughter, Mrs. Elizabeth Grimes, who lives in Vincennes.

Muston doesn't know how many grandchildren, great grandchildren or even great, great grandchildren he has but Stiner knows that he has one great grandchild, Gary Grimes, of San Antonio, Tex., and several great grandchildren.

It is hard to keep track when one is that age.

Stiner says his next door neighbor, Mrs. Linda Orth, looks after him and Muston says the neighbors help him, too, but for companionship he has a four-year-old dog, Heidi.

Muston doesn't believe in doctors and doesn't have one. He does his own washing and ironing and his own cooking and does some of his yard work. He bought a bicycle three or four years ago but hasn't ridden it yet. However, he's thinking about buying a motorcycle.

He's quite independent and says he didn't apply for his pension. He just got one.

Born in Hamilton County, Muston came to Terre Haute after his discharge from the United States Army and has lived here ever since. He was a coal miner and worked in several mines in this area. Later, he was a car mechanic. He has been retired many years.

When Muston joined the United States Army at the time of the Spanish American War, he was first stationed at Fort duChane, Utah. During the three years he was in service, he showed his independence even then by refusing to be promoted from the rank of private. Two years of his service was spent in action in the Philippines, and he received his discharge in 1904 or 1905 (he doesn't remember which) in San Francisco, Calif.

One of nine children, Stiner was born in

Dieterich, Ill., and attended school there. His father was a farmer and he gave each of the children a horse. Stiner sold his and went to St. Louis, Mo., just before the turn of the century.

He roamed around most of his life. After a month in St. Louis, he went to Arkansas as he wanted to see the Ozark Mountains. He went on to his maternal grandfather's home in Benton County, Ark., and since working on a farm there, he was been in every state west of the Mississippi River and in a few Eastern states.

He would go west for the wheat harvest and then to Iowa and Minnesota for corn husking. He also worked with a crew on a levee in California. After the Spanish-American War, he returned to Illinois to work on a farm and there he was married in Wheeler, Ill. He worked in different places in Illinois as a butter maker in a creamery, a drayman (for about 10 years owning his own equipment), and later he was in the trucking business at Ridge Farm, Ill., with his son helping him.

Before his retirement, he went on a little farm near Sullivan, where he did farming and hauling for 10 years. When he retired, he came to Terre Haute to be near his doctor. This was 20 years ago. He has been confined to the Veterans Hospital in Indianapolis several times.

Although most of his old friends and neighbors are now gone, his son and daughter and some friends come to visit him.

Stiner says he "made application for active service" in the Spanish-American War but was turned down so he enlisted in the United States Army. He says he belonged to the 65th Company of the Coast Artillery and served for three years in and around Fort MacDowell, near San Francisco, Calif. He received an honorable discharge and had attained the rank of corporal. He is eligible for benefits as a Spanish-American War veteran, however.

There are now 1,001 men living who served in the Spanish-American War but only 150 of them are capable of caring for

themselves. The average age of the group is 95 now. In the 1898 hostilities, 392,000 Americans participated.

Veterans Administration efforts to insure that the nation's oldest veterans are receiving maximum benefits have revealed that Spanish-American War veterans differ little from today's other 29 million former servicemen.

Since the first of the year, VA benefits counselors have been visiting these elder veterans. The oldest, Norton Nelson, Whitestown, Ind., was 105 last January, and his kid brother, Everett, Palestine, Ill., also a Spanish-American War veteran, is 95.

Counselors have found some of these veterans very active. One 90-year-old was found skinning logs for use in constructing two new cabins for his hunting camp. Another shooed off the counselors, saying he was able to manage on his present income and didn't need possible increases in his VA pension.

When told of the increase in his monthly stipend, a 98-year-old veteran turned to his wife and said "I'll take you dancing tonight."

At least one veteran interviewed was still salaried. The 90-year old was found on the job, operating an elevator.

Another, age 98, had just returned from 10 holes of golf and noted that he was still "dating."

The counselors shared lunch with a 95-year-old veteran who had given up his heating business just four years earlier. While he talked, he sipped a can of beer, and, as the interview ended, he crushed the empty can in his hand.

A 98-year-old recalled how he remained in the Philippines after the war with Spain and ran an import-export business. He was interned for three years during World War II.

But more timely was the 97-year-old widower who had been married 66 years. He was embroiled in a tax dispute over insurance payments.

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**William T. Stiner,**  
**Spanish-American**  
**veteran succumbs**

William T. Stiner, 98, formerly of Terre Haute, the last known Spanish-American War veteran in the Indiana, Illinois, Kentucky and Tennessee district, died Friday at Red Hills Rest Haven Nursing Home, Sumner, Ill.

He enlisted in the U.S. Army's 65 Costal Artillery Company in 1902.

Surviving are a daughter, Mrs. Lewis Grimes, Vincennes; a grandson, George F. Grimes, San Antonio, Texas; a sister, Mrs. Ruby Spencer, Marshall, Ill.; three great-grandchildren; several nieces and nephews.

Full American Legion military graveside services will be 12:30 p.m. (EST) Monday at Marshall (Ill.) Cemetery. Friends may call after 10 a.m. Monday at Patrick J. Ryan Funeral Home in Terre Haute.

Vigo County Public Library

Community Affairs File

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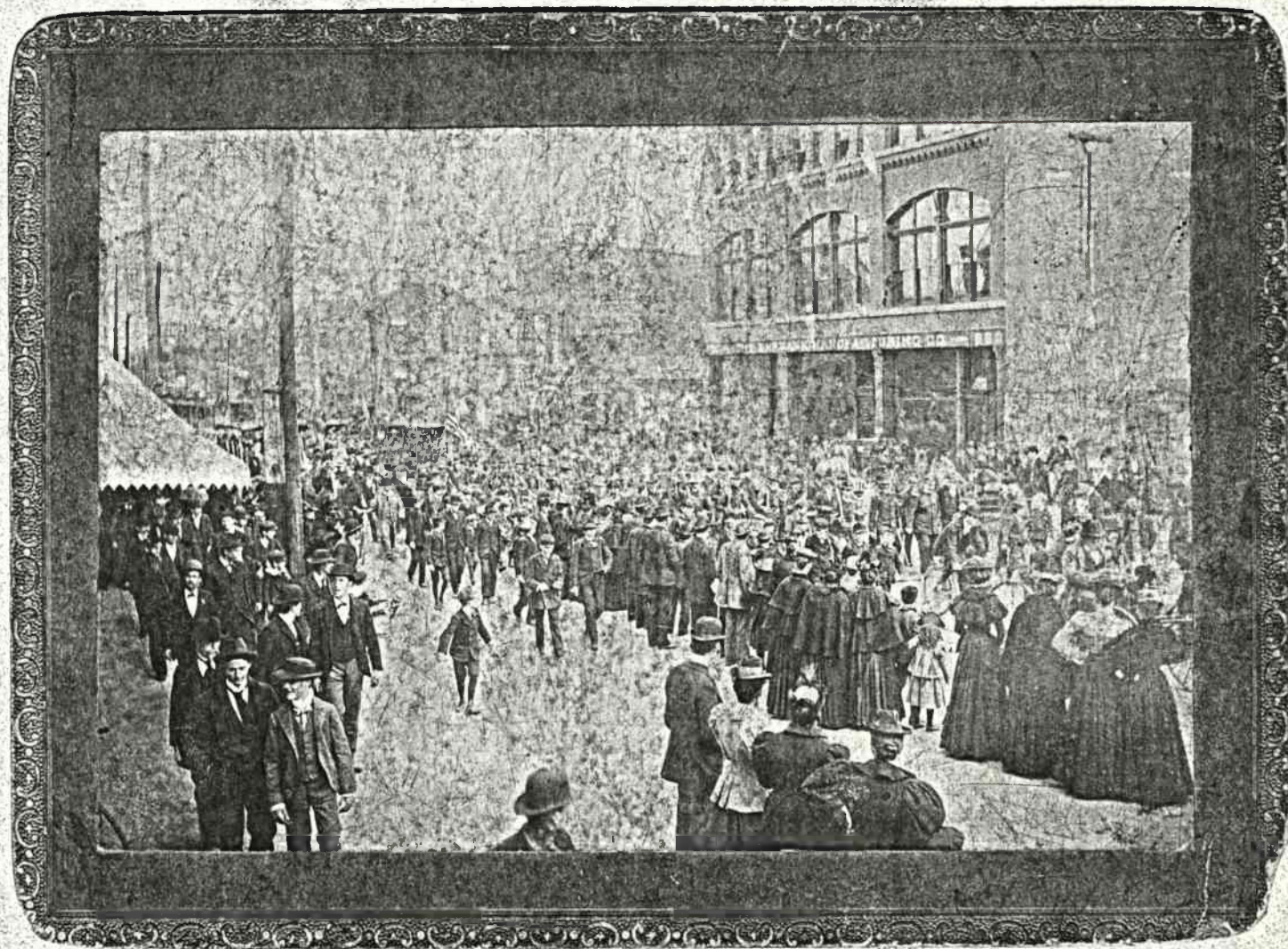


SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR SOURCES  
in the Community Archives Collection  
Vigo County Public Library

<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Collection Title</u>
Vol 86, Vol 87	Benjamin E. Wimer Letters
880912; SM D.C. 16	Wimer Family Papers



Wars (WW)  
Spanish-American





Departure of  
Company B 1st Spas  
April 26-1898

Terre Haute Ind

War with Spain

EMELINE FAIRBANKS MEMORIAL LIBRARY





**NORRIS SHAKE**

## Spanish-American War Vet Norris Shake Dies at 90

Norris Shake, 90, 1907 3rd Ave., died at 3 p.m. Saturday at his residence.

He was a veteran of the Spanish-American War and was one of the five surviving members of the Claude L. Herbert post of the Spanish-American War veterans. He was also a member of Masonic Lodge 42.

He was a route man for THE TRIBUNE on Sundays for about 20 years. Earlier he was a route man for the Terre Haute Star.

Surviving are the widow, Doris; four sons, Alvin of Anaheim, Calif.; Joseph of RR 1, Carbon, Ind.; Jack of Danville, Ill., and James of Bakersfield,

**T. H. TRIBUNE-STAR.**  
**Sunday, Nov. 2, 1969** 9

Calif.; one sister, Mrs. Flossie Wells of Carlisle, Ind.; 15 grandchildren; 25 great-grandchildren; 2 step-daughters; 5 step-sons, and 4 step-grandsons.

Services will be at 1:30 p.m. Tuesday at the Gillis Memory Chapel, with burial in Highland Lawn Cemetery. Masonic Lodge 42 will conduct memorial services at the funeral home at 7:30 p.m. Monday, while World War I Veterans, Barracks 912, will conduct military graveside rites. Friends may call after noon Monday.

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**VIGO COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY**  
**TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA**



# Ranks Grow Thin—

## They Remember the Maine At Monthly Get-Togethers

T.H. Spanish Am. War

T.H. Star 10/24/66



**VETERAN AND WIFE**—One of the 10 remaining veterans of the Spanish American War in the local Claude L. Herbert Camp No. 187, Spanish American War Veterans, is Norris Shake, seen here with his wife and their pet collie, "Lady," at their home, 1907 3rd Ave. Shake and his wife, a member of the auxiliary of the camp, have attended all but nine encampments of the organization since their marriage in 1927. He has been service officer for the local camp since 1928 and has held all local offices in the organization. (Photo by Kadel)

By **FRANCES E. HUGHES**  
Star Staff Writer

Considering that the Spanish-American War was way back in 1898, it is surprising there are still 10 surviving members of Claude L. Herbert Camp No. 38, Spanish American War Veterans of Terre Haute, still living.

Nelson Norton, Whitestown, at 96 years of age is the oldest, and Elmer Love, Jasonville, 82 years old, the youngest.

The only remaining charter members of the local camp are Norris Shake, 1907 3rd Ave., who has held all offices in the camp, has been through the departments in the state organization and has been service officer of the camp since 1928, and Percy Garrett, Vermillion County Nursing Home, Danville, Ill.

+ + +

The other members are Harrison M. Jeffers, 821 N. 12th St.; Sam Tucker, 309 Gilbert Ave.; Eugene Dillingham, 904 S. 8th St.; Henry Clark, 2804 S. 8th St.; Mahlon D. Manson, 25 Monroe Blvd.; and Pete Sweitzer, in a nursing home in the Ozark Mountains.

C. E. Griffith, who died several weeks ago, had been a member for 31 years.

Meetings of the camp are on the third Tuesday of each month, at which time the auxiliary also meets at Memorial Hall. The meetings are sparsely attended these days.

When the camp was organized in 1909, there were 30 members. At one time, the membership grew to 187. The auxiliary, composed of widows, wives and daughters of veterans, now has 46 members.

Probably the most active members of the camp and auxiliary over many years have been Mr. and Mrs. Norris Shake. She has held all the offices in the local auxiliary and has been through the department in the state. She joined the auxiliary when she married Shake in 1927.

+ + +

The Shakes attended their first encampment of the organization in Detroit on their honeymoon and have missed only nine encampments since. In all, they have attended 30 of the conventions, the last one last month at Lansing, Mich.

Shake, who lacked a month of being 20 years old, lied about his age when he enlisted in the army in Terre Haute on July 27, 1899. Since he had walked with a plow hitched to a two-horse team attending 22 acres of corn and had worked for two weeks on a threshing machine, he also was underweight. Turned down on his first attempt, he went to Eighth and Main streets in Terre Haute and bought and ate a dozen bananas for a nickel to bring up his weight. That afternoon, he was accepted and became a member of Company 1, 31st United States Volunteer Infantry.

Community Affairs File

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TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

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For a month, he trained at Fort Thomas, Ky., during which he marched 11 miles with his company to camp for a week for rifle practice. On Aug. 25, his company marched to Cincinnati, Ohio, to board the train for San Francisco. He arrived there Sept. 1 at Persidio Army Base and was to ship out on Sept. 19 on the Transport Thomas.

+ + +

However, two men in the company developed smallpox and he was quarantined at Angel's Island until Oct. 24. His battallion then sailed on the Manuance Transport, a horse boat leased from the British Government and made into a transport. The ship got to Honolulu Nov. 1 and two days later left for the Philippines.

On the second day out most of the crew had deserted, and only one eight-hour watch was left. The ship then sprang a leak and, since the pumps would not work, a bucket brigade was formed with 63 three-gallon galvanized buckets to bail out the ship all the way to Manila.

On Nov. 17, a typhoon also hit the ship, and the soldiers finally got to Manila on Nov. 19. All were ill and had only the torn clothes they wore. Next they were sent to Zambo Ango for garrison duty at regimental headquarters, and from there to Mindanao, the second largest island of the Philippines, also for garrison duty.

+ + +

Shake's final duty of the war was at a post called Davao on Mindanao, where he served on garrison duty and as a guard for the building of roads. He also went up the Quin Quin River as a guard for a prospector for gold. He didn't see any real

action but the going wasn't easy.

Shake joined the veterans' organization in 1909, when it was formed in Terre Haute. It was named honoring a veteran, Claude L. Herbert, who was burned to death in the Havens and Geddes fire here. Herbert was a stock boy in the store preparing for the Christmas opening on Dec. 18, when some Christmas decorations caught afire. He manned the elevator and got all persons out except two little boys. When he went back to try to get them, they had jumped out of a window on the fourth floor and he was trapped.

Schoolchildren took up pennies and built a fountain in honor of Herbert at 5th and Wabash Ave. Twice it was torn down, once by a runaway team of horses and another time by an automobile, and was rebuilt both times. In 1927, the camp and auxiliary raised almost \$3,000 and built the present fountain at this site in honor of Herbert.

+ + +

Shake and his wife have been leaders in all phases of work of the camp and auxiliary. The camp was made up of veterans

who had served in the Spanish American War from April 21, 1898, to July 4, 1900.

Mrs. Shake helped to rear six children of Shake by a former marriage, one daughter and five sons. Three of the sons have been in service. Joseph Shake, Mansfield, and James Shake, Bakersfield, Calif., both served in the United States Army during World War II. William Shake, Terre Haute, died of a heart attack while serving with the United States Army Engineers in Africa last year.



## Lone Spanish War Vet Still Leads Active Life

*T.H. Tribune - Star 8-27-67.*  
By MARY ANNE PIERCE

At 88, Norris Shake, the last Spanish American War veteran living in Terre Haute, leads a busy life.

He is presently employed as

custodian of Memorial Hall and is very active in local, state and national veterans organizations. In the near future, he and his wife, Clara, will travel to San Antonio, Tex., for the National Encampment of Spanish-American vets.

Shake, an active backer of a movement to secure a national cemetery for Terre Haute, will petition the national veteran's organization to adopt the cemetery resolution. He will again serve on the resolution committee, a position he has held for 20 years.

### Was Route Carrier

For 26 years, Shake was employed by Root's. He also worked for Mace Appliance for 27 years and drove the first Terre Haute Star motor route. He later carried papers for the Tribune and for over 27 years, took the paper to customers in the surrounding counties.

Mr. and Mrs. Shake reside at 1907 3rd Ave. where he finds time to care for their yard and flowers. An example of the veteran's green thumb is a giant hydrangea. The bush stands eight feet tall and spreads 12 feet into the the yard. Shake says he "just planted it and let it alone" in 1951.

While on their trip, the Shakes will take a side jaunt to California, to visit their children, before returning home. In the last 40 years, they have missed only nine encampments.



ONLY SPANISH-AMERICAN VET living in Terre Haute, Norris Shake, stands beside a huge hydrangea bush in his yard at 1907 Third Ave. At 88 the veteran finds time to care for his flowers and yard, hold down a custodial job and remain active in veterans' affairs.

*T.H. Tribune-Star 8-27-67.*

Photo by Martin.

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TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

Community Affairs File



Before war was declared, Colonel Ebel had been working to raise a company, and in April Company B's muster roll was complete. The company went to Indianapolis on the 26th. 1898. Their departure was the signal for much enthusiasm and display of flags and various patriotic demonstrations in the city. May 9, was Dewey day in Terre Haute. Company B was mustered into the United States service on May 12th, and a few days later was camped at Camp Alger. I remained in the east during the summer but was not called to active service. I returned to Indianapolis in September, and in November finally returned home. Since then Company B has retained its organization as a Military-social body.

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Cronin, Vigo County. Volume 111 of Esarey's. "History of  
Indiana".



Community Affairs File  
**Mahlon Manson**  
**Dies at 93**

T APR 17 1973

Services for Mahlon D. Manson, 93, 25 Monroe Blvd., a veteran of the Spanish-American War, who died at 7 p.m. Monday at Meadows Manor East, will be at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday at the Callahan Funeral Home, with Rev. Lloyd V. Channels officiating.

Graveside services will follow at 1 p.m. Monday at Oak Hill Cemetery, Crawfordsville, Ind. Friends may call after 6 p.m. Tuesday at the funeral home, where Social Lodge No. 86 will conduct Masonic memorial services at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday.

Manson was a member of the Central Christian Church and a life member of Terre Haute Elk Lodge No. 86, Social Scottish Rite, Valley of Terre Haute.

Surviving are a daughter, Mrs. Fletcher W. Gates, Terre Haute, two grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

WAR (W) Spanish American



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TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA



~~Soldiers (T.H.)~~ MAR 18 1970

## Last Known Spanish-American War Vet Dies

The last known Spanish-American War veteran in the Indiana, Illinois, Kentucky and Tennessee district died Friday at Red Hills Rest Haven Nursing Home, Sumner, Ill.

William T. Stiner, 98, formerly of Terre Haute, who enlisted in the U.S. Army's 65 Costal Artillery Company in 1902, died Friday morning at the Illinois nursing home.

Stiner is survived by a daughter,

Mrs. Lewis Grimes, Vincennes, a grandson, George F. Grimes, San Antonio, Texas; a sister, Mrs. Ruby Spencer, Marshall, Ill., three great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

Full American Legion military graveside services will be at 12:30 p.m. (EST) Monday at Marshall (Ill.) Cemetery. Friends may call after 10 a.m. Monday at Patrick J. Ryan Funeral Home, here.

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Community Affairs File



INVENTORY

## Wimer Family Papers

Dates: 1896-1944

Accession Number: 880912; SM D.C. 16

Donor: Patricia Lasswell and Frederick K. Lasswell

Description: One document case and one small document case.

Content and Scope of Collection

Benjamin Edgar Wimer (1877-1941) was born in Terre Haute and served 37 years in the local postal service. His military career spanned nearly 50 years of both active and reserve duty. He married Terre Haute native Stella May Steinmier (1873-1954) on May 22, 1898 at Camp Mount near Indianapolis, Indiana.

The papers of the Wimer family include original correspondence along with a few miscellaneous items such as newspaper clippings and photographs. Most of the collection consists of letters written by Benjamin Wimer to his wife Stella during the Spanish American War, the Mexican border campaign, and World War I. Other correspondents include Ella Wimer Hamilton (Benjamin Wimer's sister), Stanley Wimer (son of Benjamin and Stella Wimer), B. Richard Wimer (son of Benjamin and Stella Wimer), Joseph W. Shields (Benjamin Wimer's nephew), and William H. Wood (Stella Wimer's nephew).

Due to its fragile condition, this collection should be handled as little as possible. A complete transcript of the Wimer family correspondence can be found in: Benjamin E. Wimer Letters (Archives 86; 87). Volume 87 also contains genealogical information on the Wimer family.

D.C.

Folder 1	Photographs: Drummer Boy of Co. F, 4.3. Indiana Regiment Camp--Indianapolis, Indiana	1896 1898
Folder 2	Letters, from Benjamin Wimer to Stella	8/23/1897- 2/26/1898
Folder 3	Letters, from Benjamin Wimer to Stella	2/28/1898- 3/13/1898
Folder 4	Letters, from Benjamin Wimer to Stella	3/16/1898- 3/28/1898
Folder 5	Letters, from Benjamin Wimer to Stella	3/30/1898- 4/11/1898



## Inventory--Wimer Family Papers, continued

2

D.C.

Folder 6	Letters, from Benjamin Wimer to Stella	4/13/1898- 4/25/1898
Folder 7	Letters, from Benjamin Wimer to Stella	4/27/1898- 5/9/1898
Folder 8	Letters, from Benjamin Wimer to Stella	5/10/1898- 5/19/1898
Folder 9	Letters, from Benjamin Wimer to Stella Letter, from Ella Wimer Hamilton to Stella Wimer	5/24/1898- 5/29/1898 5/27/1898
Folder 10	Letters, from Benjamin Wimer to Stella	5/31/1898- 6/5/1898
Folder 11	Letters, from Benjamin Wimer to Stella	6/6/1898- 6/11/1898
Folder 12	Letters, from Benjamin Wimer to Stella	6/12/1898- 6/18/1898
Folder 13	Letters, from Benjamin Wimer to Stella	6/19/1898- 6/26/1898
Folder 14	Letters, from Benjamin Wimer to Stella; Newspaper clippings	6/28/1898- 7/4/1898

SM D.C.

Folder 1	Letters, from Benjamin Wimer to Stella	7/5/1898- 7/15/1898
Folder 2	Letters, from Benjamin Wimer to Stella	7/16/1898- 7/25/1898
Folder 3	Letters, from Benjamin Wimer to Stella	7/26/1898- 8/6/1898
Folder 4	Letters, from Benjamin Wimer to Stella	8/8/1898- 8/19/1898
Folder 5	Letters, from Benjamin Wimer to Stella Letter, from Ella Wimer Hamilton to Benjamin Wimer	8/22/1898- 8/29/1898 8/22/1898

## Inventory--Wimer Family Papers, continued

3'

SM D.C.

Folder 6	Letters, from Benjamin Wimer to Stella	8/30/1898- 9/9/1898
Folder 7	Letters, from Benjamin Wimer to Stella	9/10/1898- 11/17/1916
	Note and poem written by Stella Wimer	n.d.
	War Department Payroll Voucher, Indiana Infantry	6/1916
Folder 8	Letters, from Benjamin Wimer to Stella	11/26/1916- 2/2/1919
	Letter, from Stanley Wimer to Benjamin Wimer	12/8/1918
Folder 9	Postcard, from Stanley Wimer to Stella Wimer	2/4/1919
	Letters, from Benjamin Wimer to Stella	2/23/1919- 6/25/1919
	Letter, from B. Richard Wimer to Stella Wimer	2/1/1943
	Correspondence:	
	To Stella from Pvt. Joseph W. Shields	1/28/1944
	To Stella from Col. B. R. Wimer	12/1944
	To Stella from Wm. H. Wood	12/1944



INVENTORY

Benjamin E. Wimer Letters

Dates: August 1897-1944

Accession Number: 86,87

Donor: Patricia Lasswell

Description: Two large brown loose-leaf notebooks, V. One - August 1897  
to June 30, 1898; V. Two - July 1, 1898 to January 23, 1944

Content and Scope of Collection

Letters of Benjamin Edgar Wimer to his wife, Stella Steinmier Wimer, during the Spanish-American War, from the Mexican border, and from Europe during WW I.



# Spanish-American Vet Looks Back

T MAY 28 1973

By CAROLYN TOOPS  
Tribune Staff Writer

If I had it to do all over again, I'd probably have done pretty much the same," said William F. Stiner, 2137 Hendricks St., looking back 75 years to the day in 1898 when he left home to enlist in the U.S. Coast Guard during the Spanish-American War.

"I didn't actually fight in any battles," he was careful to explain. "It was the job of the Coast Guard to guard the coast for the protection of the people. I was stationed around San Francisco for some time, also in Albuquerque, N. M., Mexico, Canada and other places in California."

He received an honorable discharge after three years service, entitling him to a military pension under a Civil War ruling.

Stiner, who was 93 on May 18, was born at Dieterich, Ill., in Effingham County, of Swiss ancestry. He attended schools there and later Austin College.

"I didn't know anyone when I enlisted in the Coast Guard but it was a great chance to travel and do a lot of interesting things," he recalled, especially working on a levee near Sacramento with 60 to 70 horses, and the difficulties when a boatload of Chinese, some of them with cholera, arrived at Angel Island near San Francisco.

He and Ora Layton, of Wheeler, Ill., were married 66 years ago. They have two children, two grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren. Their daughter, Mrs. Betty Grimes, teaches school in Vincennes, and their son, Merl Stiner, of Milford, Ind., is a foreman in an auto factory. Merl and one of the grandsons have both served in the U.S. Army.

Stiner says, "I was my own employer most of my life, as butter worker, later as a drayman in Learney, Ill., for about 10 years until cars and trucks began to replace horses and mules." The Stiners lived at Ridge Farm, Ill., for 27 years and remember quite well the depression days and hogs selling for three cents a pound.

Stiner had a coal business during these years, and "when the banks went broke, I had a lot of credit out," he recalled.

They later moved to the Linton area to a small farm, and Stiner also drove a school bus. They have lived in Terre Haute for 16 years, in the house on Hendricks St. Stiner's sister, Ina Cline, also lives in Terre Haute.

Soldiers T.H.

B. B. B. B.



**WILLIAM F. STINER**, who served with the U.S. Coast Guard from 1898 to 1901, looked over an old photograph album and did a little reminiscing about his military service during the Spanish-American War. He left home when he was 18 to enlist in the Coast Guard. A son and a grandson have both served in the U.S. Army. Stiner and his wife live at 2137 Hendricks St. He celebrated his 93rd birthday on May 18.  
House of Photography Photo.

He has been in hospitals several times in recent years, including once at Veterans Hospital, Indianapolis. Though he doesn't drive any more, he keeps very busy around the house and yard and has some beautiful red roses in bloom. He also helped keep up the yard next door.

Looking back over the years, he commented:

"There's lots to be proud and thankful for. I can't understand why people think they need to use dope — it's a poison."

He has belonged to several veterans' organizations at various times. On this Memorial Day he'll be at home, occasionally and carrying out his thinking back over the years of usual daily chores.

Vigo County Public Library

**REFERENCE  
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Wars (WW) Spanish American





11/30

262  
mm

Grave marker of Jessie K. Stork. Indiana 1st, First  
soldier killed in Spanish-American War. Epitaph written  
by his commander, Col Theodore Roosevelt, Rough Riders.  
Killed at Las Guisames, Cuba. Preserve photo. Ed Johnson.



2 SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR

STAR 11-3-1969

## Funeral Set Tuesday For Norris Shake

Services for Norris Shake, 90, 1907 3rd Ave., who died Saturday at his residence, will be at 1:30 p.m. Tuesday at the Gillis Memory Chapel. Burial will be in Highland Lawn Cemetery.

Shake was a veteran of the Spanish - American War and was one of the five surviving members of the local Claude L. Herbert post of the Spanish-American War Veterans. He also was a member of Humboldt Masonic Lodge No. 42. Masonic Memorial services will be conducted at 7:30 p.m. Monday at the funeral home. World War I Veterans Barracks No. 912 will conduct military graveside rites.

Friends may call after noon Monday.

+ + +

Shake, who enlisted in the army in Terre Haute on July 27, 1899 for service in the Spanish American War, lacked a month of being 20 years old at the time, which made him too young for enlistment. He lied about his age.

He had another slight problem. He was underweight because he had been using a two-horse walking plow to cultivate 22 acres of corn and had worked with a threshing crew for two weeks. Turned down on the first attempt to enlist because he was underweight, he went to Eight and Main Streets Wabash Avenue and bought a dozen bananas for a nickel. He ate those, brought his weight up to requirements and that afternoon he became a member of Company 1, 31st United States Volunteer Infantry.

He and his unit were sent to Fort Thomas, Ky., where the group trained for a month, then marched to Cincinnati, Ohio, where they boarded a train for San Francisco, Calif., and shipment for overseas.

They arrived in California Sept. 1, and were sent to The Presidio, where they were scheduled to sail Sept. 19 on the Transport Thomas for overseas duty.

+ + +

Two men in the company broke out with smallpox, however, and his unit was quarantined on Angel's Island until Oct. 24, when they finally sailed on the Manuance Transport, a horse boat leased from the British government and converted into a troop transport. The ship arrived in Honolulu on No. 1 and departed two days later for the Philippine Islands.

Two days out of Honolulu, much of the crew refused to work and only one eight-hour watch was left for duty. The ship then developed a leak and when the pumps failed to work, a bucket brigade was formed from the army unit. Using 63 three-gallon galvanized buckets, military men bailed their way to Manila.

Two days before arriving in Manila—the arrival date there was Nov. 19—a typhoon struck, but the cattle boat with its load of soldiers made port, with all personnel ill.

Shake's unit was sent to Zamboango for garrison duty at regimental headquarters, then to the island of Mindanao, also for garrison duty. His final post was at Davao, where he served on garrison duty and as a guard for road-building crews.

+ + +

Shake joined the veterans' organization in 1909 when it was formed. The camp was made up of veterans who had served in the Spanish American war from April 21, 1898, to July 4, 1900.

It was named in memory of another Terre Haute veteran of the war, Claude L. Herbert, who lost his life in a fire that destroyed the Havens and Geddes Store, Fifth Street and Wabash Avenue.

Herbert, a stock boy in the store, was preparing merchan-

dise for a Christmas opening, when some decorations caught on fire. He manned an elevator and managed to get all occupants out of the building, with the exception of two little boys. When he went back to get them, they had jumped from a window and he was trapped by the blaze.

A fountain, built by pennies collected by school children, was built on the sidewalk near the fire in Herbert's memory. It was torn down twice, once by a runaway team of horses.

Shake and members of the camp's auxiliary championed the rebuilding of the fountain twice and in 1927 they raised \$3,000 to construct the fountain which now stands at the site.

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**They Remember-** *Claude Herbert files*

## Two Old Soldiers Answer *T.H. STAR 11/18/65* Call Again for Volunteers

By DAVE NEESE  
Star Staff Writer

Two veterans of the Spanish-American War have taken on the task of restoring a neglected memorial to a fellow war veteran who died a hero's death in a Terre Haute fire, in 1898.

The memorial to be restored is a simple drinking fountain erected on the northeast corner of Fifth Street and Wabash Avenue in memory of Claude L. Herbert. The fountain marks the spot where young Herbert, who had recently been discharged from the service, died while trying to save two children from a raging fire at the Havens and Geddys store, Dec. 18, 1898.

+ + +

One of the men assigned to restore the memorial is 86 years old and blind, but that does not weaken his resolve to get the job done.

"We're going to do something about this," Norris Shake declared. Shake was a soldier with the U.S. Volunteer Infantry, Company "I", during the Philippine campaign, 1898-1901. "The memorial has been neglected long enough," he said.

Norris and another Spanish-American War veteran, 87-year-old Henry Clark, have been appointed by the Memorial Hall

Association to find a water cooler for the stone fountain. They will be assisted by Ray Brown, a veteran of World War I.

+ + +

The memorial was given to the city in 1928 by the United Veterans of the Spanish-American War and the responsibility for the fountain falls to the city park board.

The water cooler to the fountain was stored in a local plumbing firm during the winter some time ago, Shake explained. When the owner of the firm died, the water cooler was sold by the administrator of the estate, who thought the cooler was the property of the firm. Since then, Shake said, nothing has been done to replace the cooler.

Shake thinks the memorial a worthy one and related the story behind it to explain his opinion.

+ + +

Claude Herbert enlisted in the war with Spain from Terre Haute April 21, 1898. His unit was stranded in the states because of a transportation "foul-up" and it never got out of the country until the war was over.

Discharged in 1898, he returned to Terre Haute to work as a stock boy with the Havens and Geddys firm, where the Tune Bros. Store is now located.

On Dec. 18, 1898, in the midst of a Christmas opening, a fire broke out in the four-story buildings. An elevator operator panicked and Herbert took over, leading scores of shoppers to safety. He discovered on his last trip from the top floor that two small boys were still missing. He returned to search for the two and died in the flames. The two boys had jumped to safety.

+ + +

School children of Terre Haute twice collected pennies to build a memorial fountain at the Fifth Street and Wabash Avenue site. The first memorial was destroyed by a run-away team of horses, the second by a run-away car.

In 1909 the Veteran's of the Spanish American War established a camp in Terre Haute and named their organization after Herbert. The War Veterans bought the monument and presented it to the city in 1928.

Only two charter members of the organization (Claude Herbert Camp No. 38, United Spanish War Veterans) remain in Terre Haute. The two are Shake and Clark, who want to see the memorial preserved.

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# *Description on Fountain*

IN COMMEMORATION

of the

Heroism of Claude L. Herbert aged 17, who in the  
Havens and Geddes Fire on this corner Dec. 19 1898  
with an unselfish disregard of danger sacrificed  
his own life in saving the lives of others.

Erected in Memory of Claude L.  
Herbert, Born April 6 1881 Died Dec. 19 1898

Himself he could not save, but died to save  
others.

T.H. 40 YRS AGO TODAY - Oct. 21, 1954

The Claude L. Herbert fountain  
at Fifth street and Wabash ave-  
nue was wrecked Wednesday aft-  
ernoon when struck by an auto-  
mobile.

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TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

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Community Affairs File



# CLAUDE HERBERT MEMORIAL FOUNTAIN DEDICATED WITH SIMPLE CEREMONY

Terre Haute Citizens Pay Tribute to Hero Who Lost His Life in Saving Others From the Flames.

*Star Aug. 3, 1905*

## SUBSCRIBERS TO CLAUDE HERBERT MEMORIAL FOUNTAIN FUND.

### School Children of Terre Haute.

E. R. Bathrich.  
T. C. Stunkard.  
Spencer F. Ball.  
W. T. Barnett.  
Mrs. Dr. Brown.  
C. H. Pindar.  
H. Leibing.  
Judge D. W. Henry.  
E. G. Alden.  
W. T. Sanford.  
Edna Valentine.  
Louis Pence.  
John P. Welch.

Mayor Bidaman.  
Mrs. Kate Roberts.  
Maple Avenue Junior League.  
A. Herz.  
Homer Miller.  
Paschal Miller.  
O. D. Davis.  
G. M. Crane.  
W. H. Soale.  
George W. Farls.  
Dr. Dickerson.  
Cash.  
A. A. Beecher.  
Dr. Weaver.

Company B.  
Terre Haute Brewing Co.  
May B. Helmer.  
G. G. Morris.  
Dr. J. H. Cheek.  
J. H. Swango.  
C. M. Fortune.  
B. G. Hudnut.  
Mrs. H. C. Steeg.  
George Terhorst.  
Walter A. Phillips.  
Terre Haute Water Works Co.  
Nicholas Filbeck.  
Terre Haute Star.

In the presence of a goodly crowd the memorial fountain erected in commemoration of the heroic self sacrifice of Claude Herbert, who lost his life in the Havens-Geddes fire December 19, 1898, while rescuing others from the flames, was dedicated with appropriate ceremonies at 2:30 yesterday afternoon. The fountain is located at the northeast corner of Washash avenue and Fifth street, at the point where the disastrous fire broke out.

When the time came for the beginning of the ceremonies the crowd was too large for the speakers to talk from the pavement and through the courtesy of ex-Congressman Farls a box was brought and placed beside the fountain. Mrs. Mattie J. Herbert, the mother of the young martyr, with her elder son stood close by with a company of friends. Quite a number of people witnessed the ceremonies from carriages. The members of the committee chosen to purchase the fountain and supervise the erection: Mrs. Anna L. Palmateer, Mrs. J. M. Fortune and Mrs. Dr. T. C. Stunkard, were present as were members of the city council and other public officials.

### PRESENTATION ADDRESS.

When all was in readiness, Claude G. Bowers, representing the subscribers to the fountain fund, the committee and the Star, mounted the box and delivered the presentation speech and a tribute to the memory of the young hero. During the delivery of the tribute he was frequently interrupted with applause, and throughout was given the closest attention. He spoke as follows:

The hero is God's occasional manifestation of divinity in man. The performance of a sweet self-sacrificing and heroic act is the spark of divinity reflected on a creature of clay. Heroism is the worship of God translated into action. And thus to pay tribute to heroism is to recognize befittingly the divine spark that separates the man from the beast.

He who, impelled by a patriotic purpose, passes through the miseries of the camp, the torture of the march and amidst the crash of musketry and the flash of artillery meets immortality in the glare of the guns has died a hero's death. And he who scents the foul pollution of civic corruption and courageously pits his political life against the tendency of the civic parasite has played the hero's role. But the soldier dies in the presence of the applauding world, under the inspiration of martial music and with the fingers of fancy beckoning him to the rewards of immortality; and the champion of civic righteousness is lifted on a people's admiration to power and place. The greatest heroes, then, are the heroes of the common life—they who, though self sacrifice and an ennobling sense of duty, give continually of themselves for the good of all.

The memory of the disastrous fire when the flames burst forth in the heart of the business section of the city and with all the fury of their hell wiped out one of the leading commercial houses of the commonwealth is still fresh in the minds of the people. It was in the glad-some yuletide when the world was melodious with the laughter of children, when even the dry and barren hearts of the aged responded gladly to the pristine joy, when all the business houses along this thoroughfare were radiant with life and light and color, and the earth was pulsating with something of the joy of heaven. The delights of giving and the anticipated pleasure of receiving had driven all thoughts of sorrow and of suffering from the hearts of men. It was the season when the human heart expands to take in all the world and selfishness is driven forth.

It was evening. There had been a lull in the excitement and the commercial activity of the day. The lights were blazing in all the windows, reflecting an added lustre upon the beauty and the splendor of the gifts within. The streets were still thronged with eager and delighted crowds of men, women and children. And then the earth seemed to open suddenly and hell burst forth. Over that holocaust of death—the roaring, shrieking and infuriated flames—it was compassion to drop the curtain. Before that Dantesque picture of death and destruction the strongest hearts in the manliest bosoms sank in hopeless despair, and the strongest arms of the manliest men fell impotent by their sides. And the demons of the flames, taking advantage of the impotency of man, leaped and laughed and danced and did their deadly work.

The flames fled to satiety and died down. The red in the heavens turned to sombre black. And when the morning sun fell upon the desolation of the scene where before stood one of the greatest commercial houses of the commonwealth the earth was black with dripping ruins. And searching there among the remnants of the flames they found the charred and mangled body of a boy.

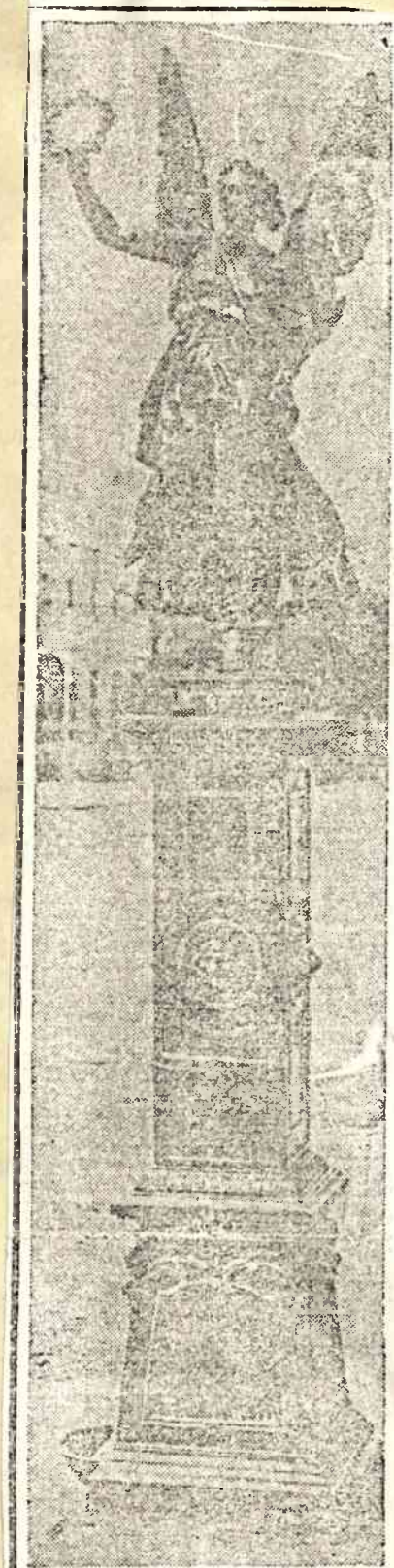
This boy had only lived through eighteen summers, but in his boyish bosom there beat a manly heart. Down in the basement he faced the deadly danger. Nor did he turn and fly. He thought of the panicstricken girls with whom he had labored side by side, and forgetting self he turned his attention to the rescue of the others. He encouraged them in their despair, organized them in their panic, led them in their immotency and gave them to the outside world again. And then once more he turned his face toward the flames. To the appeal of those who perceived his purpose he gave an answer that rings true to the highest heroism known to man:

"No, I'm going back. There may be others there."

He heard the greedy roaring of the hungry flames devouring their restless prey, heard their loud exultant shriek, and felt upon his face the hot breath of their fury. But in fancy he saw the flames creeping on and on and closing in about some shrinking, girlish form, and he heard the call of duty. One moment they saw him at the edge of the basement about to descend into the hell of fire and smoke and falling timber, and there the living form of this heroic boy was lost forever to the world. And thus this hero's splendid soul passed from the earth to immortality.

The peculiar glory of Claude Herbert's life lay in his unwavering devotion to duty. When the Spanish-American war began he felt that it was his patriotic duty to serve his country so he took up the musket of the republic and went forth to fight and if need be to die. When he returned he knew that it was his duty to help support his widowed mother, and so he sought and secured employment. When he faced the crisis of his life he felt that it was his duty to save the lives of others, and thus he prematurely passed from the bloom of





youth to the blight of the tomb. And so today we pay tribute to a boy who never failed to pay tribute to a sense of duty.

There is more significance in the erection of this simple testimonial of the public's appreciation than in the dedication of a Carnegie library. For one is the crystallized blood and sweat of those who have labored and suffered, and the other is the gratitude of those that are served. One is the coin coldly and mechanically thrown to the beggar, and the other is the divided crust and cup given out of the tenderness of a boyish heart that beat in sympathy with the sufferings of its fellow mortals. And so I say that more significance than piles of stone cunningly carved with the nimble fingers of genius, hung with the rarest offerings of art, and laden with the accumulated wisdom of the ages are such simple offerings of people's gratitude to those who sacrifice themselves in the prosy affairs of common life to serve their fellows. For one is the giving back to the world of something that has been taken from the world by selfishness and greed and the other is the giving back by the world of something that has been given to the world by sweet self-sacrifice.

The children of the city schools and many of our citizens have contributed to bring about the consummation of this event. Every penny represented in the purchase of this fountain is an imperishable flower of tribute to the memory of one whose heroic self-sacrifice is within itself a tribute to the human race. Now and then, in the selfish competition of the age, some splendid soul, through some heroic act, suggests the smallness of the multitude. And these acts of heroism are the mile stones that mark the progress of the race. They are the flowers that spring ever and anon along the prosy highway of the world, sweetening by their perfume and brightening by their presence the progress of us all. And again they are the stars that shed their soothing radiance upon the darkness of selfishness and greed.

Claude Herbert had only wandered a little way from the cradle when he fell a victim to his valor. One day he listened to the loving lullaby of his mother and the next day his life went out amidst the crackling of the flames. But in the brief intervening space between the cradle and the grave he sowed the seed of good, and from the seed thus sown has sprung a harvest that has made the world richer, sweeter and better for his having lived.

Providence takes no account of age or of conditions in selecting those who are to perform heroic roles. The most of us are destined to sail o'er placid seas from shore to shore and leave no trace behind. Only the more worthy leave behind the memory of heroic deeds. And heroism is not born of maturity. It is born of the soul—and the soul of Claude Herbert was in tune with the infinite.

And so here we plant a fountain. Here on the busiest thoroughfare of a virile city pulsating with the energy of progress; here surrounded by business houses that spell stability and strength; here within sight of financial institutions against which the fluctuating waves of adversity and prosperity have beaten and fallen back defeated, even as the waves that persistently besiege Gibraltar; here in the midst of the mart we need a monument to call our attention to the immortality of altruistic good. After listening throughout the day to the click of gold and silver and participating in the battle of selfishness and greed the melody of these falling waters will tell a tale of sweet self-sacrifice and duty done. And the exaltation of the attending feeling

will be as refreshing as the winds from over the sea to one who has traveled long beneath the scorching sun upon the burning desert sands.

Death in all its forms is terrible. There is something appalling and awe inspiring in its unsolved mysteries. But most terrible and terrifying is the angel of death when he strikes down his victim in the flush of early youth, when life is pulsating with promise and is sweet with pristine joy. And yet when youth, crowned with accomplishment, is stricken down there are consoling features to the tragedy. John Hay, the great-minded, many-sided statesman, who only recently passed from the services of the republic, once gave poetic expression to the feeling that the young who have labored effectively in the vineyard of humanity pass to eternity crowned with the laurels of the highest success.

"I muse beside the fire's faint flickering glare  
Of those who, dying young, inherited  
The immortal youthfulness of the early dead.

I think of Raphael's grand-seigneurial air;  
Of Shelly and Keats, with laurels fresh and fair.  
Shining unwithered on each sacred head;  
And soldier boys who snatched earth's starry prize  
With sweet life radiant in their fearless eyes  
The dreams of love upon their beardless lips,  
Bartering dull age for immortality.  
Their memories hold in Death's unyielding fee  
The youth that thrilled them to the finger tips."

And so we shall think of Claude Herbert as having "bartered dull age for immortality" and "with sweet life radiant in his fearless eyes" as having passed from earth crowded with the laurels of loving accomplishment. This fountain will one day rust beneath the corroding touch of time, and the waters will one day cease to flow for the refreshment of the stranger, but the deed this beautiful creation commemorates will live on to the making of better men and nobler women. The story of his martyrdom will be told from man to man, and the sublimity of his death will beautify and glorify the lives of those who follow. And now in behalf of the subscribers I give over to the keeping of the city this memorial fountain to the memory of the dead hero of the flames, Claude Herbert.



1916  
"Star" Nov 13-1916

## SERVICE HONORS CLAUDE HERBERT

New Memorial Fountain at Fifth  
Street and Wabash Avenue  
Unveiled.

CEREMONIES ARE IMPRESSIVE

Conducted by Patriotic Societies  
—Paul N. Bogart Delivers  
Eulogy of Fire Hero.

Terre Haute yesterday paid tribute to the memory of Claude L. Herbert, the hero of the Havens & Geddes fire, with the unveiling of the new fountain at Fifth street and Wabash avenue, dedicated to his memory. Impressive ceremonies were conducted by the various patriotic and civic societies of the city. A large crowd witnessed the unveiling. The principal speech was delivered by Paul N. Bogart, whose remarks were a tribute to the hero.

The fountain is the second one erected to the memory of the late Claude Herbert. The first was destroyed several months ago, and it was only after the persistent efforts of ladies of the G. A. R. and other patriotic organizations that the city decided to replace the monument. The City Council ap-

### Like First Memorial.

The new fountain is almost an exact reproduction of the old one. It is of iron construction coated with bronze, and it probably will endure for decades. It is equipped with modern drinking hydrants. The first fountain was erected in 1905, and the dedication speech was made by Claude Bowers.

The ceremonies yesterday were held under the auspices of the two oldest patriotic organizations of the city—Morton and Baird Posts, Woman's Relief Corps. Members of the Claude L. Herbert Camp, United Spanish War Veterans, participated.

Claude L. Herbert soldiered in the Spanish-American War, and the local camp of veterans was named in his honor.

Members of the following patriotic organizations and their auxiliaries formed at the Federal building: Morton and Baird Posts, G. A. R.; Union Veteran Legion, Claude L. Herbert Camp, United Spanish War Veterans; Sons of American Revolution, Ladies of the G. A. R., Daughters of Veterans and Sons of Veterans.

### Societies March to Scene.

The line of march was from Seventh street west to Fifth street, where the ceremonies were held. A detachment of police and firemen headed the parade.

The ceremonies were opened with prayer by the Rev. W. O. Rogers, pastor of the Plymouth Congregational Church. The covering was removed from the fountain by the two small Ripley girls, cousins of the hero, assisted by Commander Haag of the Spanish War Veterans. Mrs. Anna Palmateer, representing the patriotic societies, presented the fountain to the city. C. S. Batt delivered an address accepting the fountain on behalf of the city. Paul N. Bogart eulogized the hero and reviewed the story of the fire. The ceremonies closed with an honorary salute by the firing squad of the Spanish War Veterans, in charge of Capt. Percy Garrett.

Whoever it was said that the public soon forgets knew what he was talking about. It is less than 30 years since the Havens-Geddes fire at Fifth street and Wabash avenue and only recently was all the hole that the fire left in the ground filled up. Yet it is necessary to tell anew about Claude L. Herbert, the hero of that conflagration and perhaps the outstanding hero of peace times that Terre Haute has produced. Company B, the only Terre Haute outfit that saw field service in the Spanish-American War, had only recently come home. A considerable to-do was made over these returned soldiers and Company B was in everybody's mind.

It was just before the Christmas holidays that the fire occurred, the worst fire in the city's history. Claude Herbert was playing Santa Claus in the Havens-Geddes store when the big structure burst into flames. The basement was full of little children who had come to see Santa. Herbert herded his little friends out of the building and to safety, but he was not sure he had got them all. He went back to make sure and he never came out again. A few days later, when the ruins had cooled sufficiently, the members of Company B put on their blue army uniforms—it was before the days of olive drab—and searched through the debris for Herbert's body, which was not found for some time. That, briefly, is the story of Claude Herbert. A small drinking fountain was raised at Fifth and Wabash a few years later in his memory, but it was recently removed, having fallen into decay.

The United Spanish War Veterans are conducting a campaign for funds with which to erect a real memorial to the memory of Claude Herbert and there surely is enough sentiment among the old-timers who remember the famous fire to make the campaign a success.

Community Affairs File

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## VETS PUSH PLANS FOR HERBERT MEMORIAL

*Aug 17-1927*  
Citizens Back Drive and Sub-  
scriptions Are Now Being  
Received.

An enthusiastic meeting of the United Spanish War Veterans was held last night at Memorial Hall to discuss final plans for launching the drive for the Claude L. Herbert memorial fund. Many reports came in that various citizens have expressed themselves as very much pleased over the idea of building a monument that will always remind the citizens of the youth's heroic deed. Already before the drive is formally launched \$128.40 has been contributed toward the fund.

Among those who have indorsed the movement is Judge J. T. Walker, a prominent citizen of Terre Haute. Following is his message to the United Spanish War Veterans:

Capt. A. W. Dudley, 1406 Wabash avenue, Terre Haute, Ind.

Dear Sir—I understand that you are in charge of raising a fund for Claude L. Herbert Camp of United Spanish War Veterans to be used in erecting a suitable memorial to the memory of the late Claude L. Herbert.

I most heartily indorse this movement. I knew Claude quite well from his boyhood days. From that time on he always presented a sturdy, manly appearance on all occasions and his devotion to his widowed mother was most striking and enlisted the admiration of all who knew him well.

Knowing him as I did his untimely tragic death was a severe shock to me.

Let us not forget that he gave more than money, his life, that others might live. The rules of civilized society everywhere, in every land, require us to encourage, commend and perpetuate the memory of such deeds of heroism as in which he lost his life.

As a token of my well wishes in this most worthy undertaking I enclose herewith a check for \$5. Most sincerely yours,  
J. T. WALKER.

The veterans only ask the citizens to give by popular subscription and hope that in a few weeks the fund will be large enough to start construction of the monument. A. W. Dudley is the chairman of the committee for the Claude L. Herbert monument fund, and all subscriptions may be sent to him at 1406 Wabash avenue, Terre Haute, Ind.

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TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA



Spanish American War  
(TH)

## Herbert Memorial Missing Fountain

Claude L. Herbert from Terre Haute, enlisted in the war with Spain, April 21, 1898. Due to lack of transportation, he never got out of the states until the war ended. The Company was discharged the 26th of November, 1898. He returned to Terre Haute and obtained the position as stock boy at the Havens and Geddys firm on the 18th of December, 1898. They had their Christmas opening December 18, 1898. The place caught fire and was completely demolished. When the fire was discovered, the 4 story building was full of customers. The elevator girl panicked and the stock boy Claude L. Herbert took over the elevator. On his last trip of removing customers from the 4th floor, he noticed 2 small boys were yet remaining on the 4th floor. He returned, despite the protests of everyone present. The boys in the meantime, had jumped to safety on an adjoining building. After the fire, they found his body at the bottom of the elevator shaft, burned to a crisp.

To commemorate his heroism, the school children of Terre Haute collected pennies, and a drinking fountain, made of sheet and metal, was erected on the North East corner of 5th & Wabash, where the Claude L. Herbert Memorial now stands.

A few years later a runaway team of horses destroyed the fountain. Then a more substantial fountain was erected. It in turn was destroyed by an automobile.

In 1909 the Veteran's of the Spanish American War established a camp in Terre Haute. There were 30 charter members. They were organized at the K. of P. Building, where the Terre Haute Savings Bank now stands. In looking for a name, it was decided to call it the Claude L. Herbert Camp. They then replaced the fountain with a stone on October 28, 1928. They purchased the monument and presented it to the city under the jurisdiction of the park board. The water was cooled by ice in a pit, which was located on the North side of the fountain.

In 1950 this was replaced by an electric water cooler. A plumber advised the city to store it in his warehouse in the winter. Meantime he became ill and died, and it was sold in the estate. As a result, there is no cool water to be obtained on Wabash Avenue for drinking purposes.

T. H. BUYER'S GUIDE  
APRIL, 1965

Community Affairs File

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# MEMORIAL FOUNTAIN FORMALLY DEDICATED

Patriotic Societies Take Part in Unveiling of Monument Replacing One Recently Destroyed.

With the participation of all the prominent societies of Terre Haute and addresses of tribute and eulogy to Claude L. Herbert, a new Claude L. Herbert fountain to replace the one destroyed several months ago was dedicated Sunday afternoon. The fountain was erected at the corner of Fifth street and Wabash avenue and is a memorial to Claude L. Herbert, a veteran of the Spanish war and the hero of the Havens and Geddes fire. The drinking fountain is of iron construction with bronze finish and will last many years.

Impressive services marked the dedication of the monument and a large crowd witnessed the unveiling. The Morton and Baird posts, G. A. R., Woman's Relief corps and members of the Claude L. Herbert camp, United Spanish War Veterans, were the principal societies to arrange and conduct the ceremony. They were assisted by members of the following patriotic orders: Union Veteran league, Sons of the American Revolution, ladies of the G. A. R., Daughters of Veterans and Sons of Veterans.

The organizations which participated, together with a large body of the public, met in front of the postoffice building on Seventh street and formed in line of procession to march to the scene of the dedication. The parade, headed by a detachment of police and firemen, moved west on Wabash avenue to Fifth street. The ceremony was opened by an invocation by Rev. W. O. Rogers, pastor of the Plymouth Congregational church. The Misses Ripley, cousins of the hero, unveiled the fountain, assisting Commander Haag, of the Spanish War Veterans. Mrs. Anna Palmateer, as representative of all the patriotic societies, then presented the fountain to the city. City Judge C. S. Batt delivered an address accepting the fountain for the city and Paul N. Bogart delivered an address reviewing the history of the fire and eulogizing Herbert for the heroic part he played in the rescue work. The ceremonies were concluded with an honorary salute by the firing squad of the Spanish War Veterans in charge of Captain Percy Carlett.

The patriotic societies which were present contributed largely to the fund for the purchase of the new fountain but it was made possible by the donation by the city of \$500. The first fountain was erected in 1915 but was destroyed several months ago and the new fountain has a heavy railing to protect it from collision with vehicles. The new fountain is almost an exact reproduction of the old one.

There is a bronze plate affixed to it denoting its purpose and it is a fitting tribute to the hero, Claude L. Herbert whose name it commemorates, and an adornment to the city.

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## Judge Batt's Remarks.

Judge Batt spoke as follows:

"We meet this afternoon to again receive on behalf of the city, from these patriotic and civic bodies, this beautiful memorial erected to the memory of Claude Herbert. It is fitting that we should so meet; for the persistency shown by the entire community in preserving this monument is a constant reminder of Claude Herbert's heroic death, is worthy of the cause to which these efforts are directed.

"Claude Herbert, though a mere youth, measured up in the fullest sense to the stature of a man, and he gave a concrete example of the lesson which the great master of men delivered to the world, almost 2,000 years ago, when he said: 'Greater love hath no man than this, that he lay down his life for another.' While ministers have preached reams of sermons on the theme of this divine love, it remained for Claude Herbert, a mere stripling, to make these sermons of the centuries a living reality. A mere boy in the early dawn of life; with all the allurements, the hopes and the ambitions of youth in his mind, and heart, yet when he heard the call of duty, its still small voice called louder to him than the noisy clamor of the world, and he went down into the valley of the shadow of death, because he loved his fellow men and women better than he loved his own life. And as Lincoln said, when dedicating the battle ground at Gettysburg, that they could not further dedicate by words, that which men had already dedicated and consecrated by their life blood, but the most they could do was to dedicate their lives to the unfinished work before them, which the men who gave up their lives at Gettysburg, had so well begun. So I feel that we by words, can not dedicate this ground which Claude Herbert, by yielding up his life, has not only dedicated, but has, in the highest sense made it consecrated and hallowed ground; and carrying out the lofty idea of Lincoln; far better would it be for all of us to here resolve to dedicate our efforts and our lives, even if in only a small measure, to the high ideals and lofty purposes which the noble self sacrifice of Claude Herbert's life and death brings to our minds and instills in our hearts. Claude Herbert was in every sense, a great young man; and while this community has produced many great men, including great soldiers, skilled physicians, eminent lawyers, world renowned statesmen, in fact a perfect galaxy of greatness, yet among them all, no one's name will be longer remembered or revered in this community, than Claude Herbert; his name is enshrined in our hearts; it is written in the pages of

our memory; and the lines of our own American poet involuntarily comes to one's mind.

Lives of great men all remind us.  
We can make our lives sublime,  
And departing, leaving behind us,  
Footprints on the sand of Time.

And Claude Herbert has left footprints which the waves of the ocean of human progress cannot wash away from the shores of time.

"So the great and beautiful city of Terre Haute receives this beautiful monument in the spirit in which it is given; dedicated to the memory of Terre Haute's departed hero, to be used not only to commemorate his life and death, but as he would have it used; to alleviate the suffering and make happier the heart of the wayfarer and the stranger within our gates.

Community Affairs File



# VETERANS OF WAR HOLD ANNIVERSARY

Spanish American Hosts Gather to  
Honor Those for Whom Taps  
Have Sounded.

Oct 8-1924  
By Ret Crosley.

October 9, 1909, 15 years ago tomorrow, a group of veterans of the Spanish-American war, decided that if it was possible there should be a Spanish War Veteran camp in Terre Haute. Last night four of these original twenty-four that signed the chapter rolls were among the many of almost 150 Spanish war veterans that now proudly man the Claude L. Herbert camp, No. 38, U. S. W. V., department of Indiana, that gathered with their wives, members of the ladies' auxiliary, children, yes, and some grandchildren to fittingly observe the anniversary of this event notable to the state at large as well as locally.

Many of the boys who were there 15 years ago had been in Cuba and the Philippines and the Boxer uprising and many who might have been there were left across the sea in distant graves and were with the living members in spirit if not in person. Much the same last night, many of the boys who were enrolled at the inception of the organization were there in spirit only, for they have since passed on in person.

Of the meeting—it is doubtful if this camp, that has grown to the largest in the department of Indiana in its first twelve years to rank now third in membership, owing to unusual efforts on the part of other camps to out-number them in membership, has ever held a more enthusiastic, yet solemn and impressive assembly. While a review of past achievements naturally brought a smile of pleasure, the reminder of present absence from meetings of some of the boys who helped "make the camp," who have since answered taps, brought a sigh of regret that they too could not have lived on at least until its 15th anniversary to see the reward of their individual and collective efforts. Elias Garrett and Frank E. Whitman, however, being the only charter members who have died, but many who came into the organization soon after its charter was closed and were always active for the welfare of the camp are numbered among the deceased.

To Kenneth Butcher, Major B. E. Wimer, Captain Alvin W. Dudley, Norris Shake and Dr. Thomas C. Stunkard and a few others the camp owes its existence and of this number the first three were fortunately present to take part in a review of its activities. Owing to the nature of the anniversary it was a formal affair and nothing elaborate in the way of celebration was attempted. A smoker and watermelon feast sufficed to round out a pleasant and entertaining evening that proved interesting and instructive to members taken in during the last few years, since each of the charter members made talks in which they told of the camp's early days, its ups and downs as well as joys and sorrows that is sure to be encountered by any similar organization when first organized.

Fifteen years ago there were scarce-

ly any laws that recognized Spanish war veterans, especially pension laws: less than 1 per cent were on the pension rolls and it was through difficult channels that they were finally granted compensation for their disabilities. Since then the Sills bill has been passed under the administration of President Wilson, Captain Dudley reminded those present, and while Ralph W. Moss, always a friend of the soldier, was serving the Fifth district so capably in congress.

"It will be recalled that it was Claude L. Herbert camp that brought, inadvertently, Congressman Ralph Moss into his first national prominence owing to the message he delivered to the members, their wives and many friends, who gathered at a picnic held in Forest park," Dudley said, "when his preparedness speech brought caustic criticism from Chicago and New York papers that were partisan to administration foes and he was ridiculed by many of them, yet what he said afterwards turned out to be history as it is recorded. This preparedness speech, at the invitation of the non-political patriots, was universally unpopular at the time, with foes of

preparedness, yet time alone that unravels the thread of mystery and which holds the eventualities of the future into which even wise men peer with undiscerning eyes, had given, in some way, these poor patriots and this brave statesman from the Clay county farm a keen and correct insight and eventually proved both he and the camp were right in their judgment of what was best for themselves and their country to which they had once before took the oath of allegiance when preparedness soon became the thing and was heralded from the housetops by those who opposed it almost too long."

## The Thinning Ranks.

Characteristic of Captain Dudley and Major Wimer they took little credit to themselves for the splendid record of the camp, but gave a glowing tribute to others who lent their assistance.

Always among the leaders in any movement local, statewide or national to promote patriotism among its members and the citizens in general and active as well in all civic affairs in which it is its duty to take an interest, Claude L. Herbert camp No. 38, Department of Indiana, ranks high in the national organization and has furnished many department officers from its splendid membership from the rank and file of those who volunteered when their country called and it can be said of this, Terre Hauteans are justly proud and join in the desire with the boys of '98, who are now growing gray and will soon be the old soldiers of the day, when the thinning ranks of the G. A. R. are no more, that ere they observe another anniversary they may number in this camp every eligible ex-service man in Vigo county.

Department Commander Frank Kibbe, of Richmond, Ind., mustered the camp that was named after Claude L. Herbert, a Terre Haute boy, former member of Co. B, 159th Indiana volunteers, who gave his life to save Terre Hauteans in the memorable Havens & Geddes fire, as he had voluntarily tendered it to his country in 1898. No one who remembers of his brave deed at Fifth and Wabash when he carried helpless children from this burning building can doubt but what his service and life would have been as meritorious and freely given in '98, had he then the opportunity to distinguish himself.

The fountain that stands near the site of his sacrifice is a monument given by the city, while the camp organized by his comrades who have given it his name, is another.

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# MONUMENT WILL HONOR HERBERT

## Spanish War Vets Seek Fund to Build Shaft for Civil Hero.

The Spanish War Veterans of Terre Haute have taken it upon themselves to erect a monument to the memory of Claude L. Herbert, a comrade of theirs, who proved to be a hero in the great war, and who later died in the Havens-Geddes fire that swept the northern part of the block from Fifth street and Wabash avenue to the McKeen National Bank.

These old veterans feel that some sort of a fitting monumental drinking fountain should be erected to replace the one that stood for so long, but finally crumbled and was moved away last year. Young Herbert saved over 150 lives by taking charge when the building was in flames and making the women and children keep cool and march out of the large building systematically.

Herbert was a likable young chap, who was loved by his comrades while in the army and who later was loved by many children when he played the role of Santa Claus in the store that burned. He lived with his mother and seemed to care for no one else. The two were happy on the morning that Claude Herbert left to put in a full day's work and earn some money and then when the news came late in the evening, a poor mother's heart was broken.

There are many who yet live and remember the tragedy coupled with the fire disaster and to many there are still in the city who were in the store when it was ablaze.



These people should want the memory of that youth to live. A monument should stand in commemoration of the martyr of Dec. 19, 1893.

#### Vets Raise Fund.

The United Spanish War Veterans have started a fund to raise money to build a suitable monument at Fifth street and Wabash avenue, but still they need more in the fund before the monument can be built, and are calling upon the citizens of Terre Haute for help. A. W. Dudley, quartermaster of the Vets' camp, says just a small contribution from everyone will give Terre Haute a monument that the citizens will not be ashamed of, and one that will stand for years to come and that will always remind people of the great deed of the youth, Claude Herbert.

Many local citizens have indorsed the move to raise the fund, and this week A. W. Dudley has received a letter from a man in Brazil, Ind., who was a comrade of Herbert's in the war and who says that the boy lived in Brazil while he was a boy and resided at 404 West National avenue in that town. The comrade, who withheld his name, claims that Brazil should also be proud of the boy and remember him, since he was a school boy in that town for several years.

#### Calls on Brazil's Aid.

Following is the letter received by the United Spanish War Veterans from the Brazil comrade of Herbert's:

"United Spanish War Veterans:

"The fact should not be lost sight of by Brazilians that the Claude L. Herbert, hero of the Havens-Geddes fire, for whom a memorial is to be erected, was a lad from Brazil, having lived at 404 West National avenue, where the Walter Curry store now stands. He was not very old at the time—most of the residents of Brazil have forgotten him—many never knew him. But Brazil should be proud of the fact that he was a school boy in Brazil. Who knows but that something learned in the Brazil schools gave him part of the spirit of heroism to do his duty as he saw it. "ONE OF HIS SPANISH WAR COMRADES."

The fund has started for the monument and now has \$128 as a small starter. The veterans gave \$100, the auxiliary gave \$10, Judge J. T. Walker gave \$5, George Kreitenstein gave \$10, \$1.40 was received for the salvage of the old monument and three comrades have each given a dollar to the Claude L. Herbert memorial fund.

Contributions will be received at any time by the United Spanish War Veterans since they wish to start building the monument as soon as the people subscribe enough money. All subscriptions are to be sent to A. W. Dudley, quartermaster, United Spanish War Veterans, 1406 Wabash avenue, Terre Haute, Ind.

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## CLAUDE HERBERT MEMORIAL FOUNTAIN FUND COMPLETED

On the day following the sixth anniversary of the death of Claude Herbert, the fund for the erection of a memorial fountain to the little hero of the Havens & Geddes fire has been completed. Mayor Bidaman contributed \$2 and W. T. Barnett added \$1 to the fund Tuesday. The remainder of the \$250, which was \$14, was contributed by the Terre Haute Star company.

The fountain to commemorate the brave deed of 16-year-old Claude Herbert, who saved the lives of a number of school children and lost his life, will be erected in the early spring, the date later to be announced.

The school children of Terre Haute and other persons contributed liberally to the fund, which insured the success of the movement.

Suggestions as to the design of the memorial fountain and proposals for its erection will be submitted to the committee in charge if sent to The Star.

*Indicated Aug 3, 1908*



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## MEMORIAL FOUNTAIN RUINED WHEN AUTO BRAKES FAIL

*Oct 21-1912 date of accident*

The Claude Herbert fountain at Fifth street and Wabash avenue was wrecked yesterday afternoon when an automobile driven by Mrs. H. C. Marshall of 702 South Fourth street ran into it. According to Mrs. Marshall the brakes on the car refused to work when a street car and a wagon stopped in front of her and she was forced to run into the fountain.

The Claude Herbert fountain was erected by the school children of Terre Haute as a memorial to Claude Herbert who lost his life in Havens & Geddes' fire.

The fountain was damaged some time ago by an automobile and had just been repaired a few days. The wreckage is still at Fifth street and Wabash avenue.

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## Bindley Orders New Tablet for Herbert Fountain

Nov 15-1916

E. H. Bindley, who provided the tablet for the first Claude Herbert Memorial Fountain, announced yesterday that he already had taken steps to provide a suitable tablet for the restored fountain which was unveiled Sunday by patriotic societies of Terre Haute. Mr. Bindley said he wanted this to be his personal tribute to the young hero who sacrificed his life in rescuing children from the terrible fire in the Havens & Geddes building.

When the first memorial was provided through the assistance of the children of Terre Haute it was erected and dedicated without a tablet. This later was placed by Mr. Bindley. The tablet was destroyed when the memorial was wrecked by a runaway motor car. Mr. Bindley called on Eugene V. Debs to write a suitable tribute and this will be reproduced on a bronze which will be placed on the memorial as soon as the work is completed. Mr. Bindley said he considered it an honor to be permitted by the citizens of Terre Haute to restore the tablet. It is expected that the work will be completed within a week.

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## CAMP WILL ASSIST TO UNVEIL FOUNTAIN

*"Star" Nov 11-1916*  
Order of Spanish-American War  
Veterans Accepts Place of  
Honor in Ceremony.

With fitting ceremonies, the restored fountain at Fifth street and Wabash avenue, dedicated to the memory of Claude L. Herbert, who lost his life in an heroic attempt to rescue persons from the fire nearly a score of years ago, will be unveiled Sunday afternoon. Practically all patriotic organizations in the city will contribute to the program. The Claude L. Herbert Camp No. 38, United Spanish War Veterans, will have a post of honor in the ceremonies.

### Fountain is Restored.

The new fountain is the second which has been erected and dedicated to the memory of the hero. The first, several months ago, was destroyed when it was struck by a runaway automobile. The new fountain has been made possible through the donations of local patriotic organizations, civic societies and individuals.

The fountain will be unveiled about 2:30 o'clock Sunday afternoon by the two small cousins of the late Mr. Herbert, assisted by Commander Frank E. Haag, of the United Spanish War Veterans. The veteran's firing squad commanded by Capt. P. M. Garrett will fire a salute. There will be other ceremony befitting such an occasion.

Members of the Spanish War Veterans and ladies auxiliaries will meet at the hall of the Claude E. Herbert Camp at 2 o'clock Sunday afternoon in preparation for the unveiling.

Members of the Daughters of Veterans will meet at the post office at 2:30 o'clock Sunday afternoon for the same purpose. An invitation has been extended to the Third Ward Civic League to participate in the ceremonies, and to other civic organizations of the city.

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Spectator Nov 11-1916

#### Memorial Fountain to Be Dedicated Tomorrow—

**T**HE new Claude L. Herbert memorial fountain, erected at Fifth street and Wabash avenue in memory of a brave young man who gave his life to save others in the Havens & Geddes fire on that corner, will be dedicated with impressive ceremonies tomorrow afternoon at 3 o'clock. The dedication is under the auspices of Morton Relief Corps No. 11.

The exercises will consist of music by the Plymouth Church orchestra, prayer by the Rev. Mr. Rogers, a song by Miss Lillian Eppert, after which the monument will be unveiled by Misses Ruth and Fern Ripley, cousins of Claude Herbert. The dedicatorial address will be delivered by Attorney Paul N. Bogart. As chief executive of the city, James M. Gossom will receive the monument. The exercises will close with prayer by the Rev. Clark R. Parker.

The service being under the auspices of the Woman's Relief Corps, all patriotic societies of the city are invited to attend. They will meet with the city and county officials at the postoffice at 2:30 and march in a body to Fifth and Wabash.

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'Post' Nov. 13-1916

## TRIBUTE PAID TO CITY HERO

(Post) Nov 13-1916

Tribute was paid to the late Claude Herbert in the unveiling of the Claude Herbert memorial fountain at Fifth and Wabash-av. Sunday afternoon by patriotic societies of the city.

"The community in preserving this monument," said City Attorney Charles Butt in accepting the fountain in behalf of the city, "as a constant reminder of Claude Herbert's heroic death, is worthy of the cause to which these efforts are directed.

"Claude Herbert, tho a mere youth," said Butt, "measured up in the fullest sense to the stature of a man, and he gave a concrete example of the lesson which the great Master of men delivered to the world, almost 2,000 years ago, when he said: 'Greater love hath no man than this, that he laid down is life for another.'

"While ministers have preached reams of sermons on the theme of this divine love, it remained for

Claude Herbert, a mere stripling, to make these sermons of the centuries a living reality.

"A boy in the early dawn of life, with all the allurements, the hopes and the ambitions of youth in his mind and heart, yet when he heard the call of duty, its still small voice called louder to him than the noisy clamor of the world and he went down into the valley of the shadow of death, because he loved his fellowmen and women better than he loved his own life."

Paul N. Bogart officially presented the fountain to the city in behalf of the patriotic societies of the city, including Morton and Baird posts of Women's Relief corps, who were active in having the fountain restored.

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#### DEDICATION BY MAYOR.

The moment the speaker concluded Mayor Edwin J. Bidjarian stepped forward and in a few well-chosen and appropriate words accepted the fountain on behalf of the city. He spoke as follows:

In accepting this beautiful fountain on behalf of the city I do so with that feeling of high admiration we always have for those who have given their lives that others may live.

Claude Herbert did this when, with a stout heart and a steady hand he stood at the bottom of the steps in the basement of the old Havens and Geddes building on the evening of Dec. 19, 1898, and guided the steps of the children up the stairs to the outer doors to safety, to life, while he, forgetful of his own danger, remained and met his death. His heroism on that day placed his name high on the country's roll of heroes, and it will always remain there.

To commemorate the brave deeds of this young man the good people of Terre Haute have caused to be erected this fountain that we may perpetuate his memory. Through it will flow the life-giving waters. What could be more appropriate and beautiful.

When one gives his precious life for others he has performed all in this world that God or man can ask, and so to the memory of Claude Herbert we do now dedicate this fountain."

#### MOTHER EXPRESSES THANKS.

This closed the ceremonies. Mrs. Herbert, with tears of pride in her eyes, sought a representative of the Star and asked that her heartfelt thanks be extended through the columns of the paper to the subscribers to the fund who have remembered the beautiful sacrifice of her boy through all these seven years.

Slowly the crowd turned away in all directions and within a few minutes only a few remained to admire the beautiful bronzed work of art which is a distinct ornament to the corner. The water had been turned on and all that now remains to complete the work is the inscription tablet bearing the name and telling of the sacrifice of Claude Herbert, which will be here in a few days.

The story of the self sacrifice of the young hero is told fully in the speeches of presentation and acceptance.

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